



EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY (EPT)

For Chlamydia, Gonorrhea or Trichomoniasis

FACT SHEET FOR PHARMACISTS IN MARYLAND

EPT in Maryland: EPT is the voluntary clinical practice of treating sex partners of patients with certain sexually transmitted infections without an intervening medical exam. It is a useful option for partners who are unable or unlikely to obtain timely care. Maryland law authorizes physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, and certain registered nurses in local health departments to prescribe or dispense EPT for chlamydia, gonorrhea, or trichomoniasis within their scopes of practice. Pharmacists licensed under Title 12 of the Health Occupations Article are authorized to dispense antibiotic therapy prescribed in accordance with the EPT law. (MD Health-Gen Code §18–214.1.) Most states authorize the use of EPT. EPT is endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and numerous national and Maryland state medical associations.

Diagnostic Criteria: Clinical or laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of chlamydia, gonorrhea or trichomoniasis.

Delivery of EPT: Patients deliver prescriptions or medications along with informational materials to their partners.

Recommended EPT Treatment Regimens for Partners:

GONORRHEA*, with or without chlamydia

Dual therapy:

400 mg cefixime orally in a single dose **AND**
1 gram azithromycin orally in a single dose

CHLAMYDIA

1 gram azithromycin orally in a single dose

TRICHOMONIASIS

2 grams metronidazole orally in a single dose

Filling EPT Prescriptions: Prescriptions must be labeled with the partner's name, if known, and all prescriptions must indicate EPT or Expedited Partner Therapy. Unnamed partner prescriptions may be issued to EPT or Expedited Partner Therapy. Refills are not allowed.

Educational Materials - Requirements for Pharmacists and Clinicians: Educational materials for patients and their partners must accompany each prescription issued or medication dispensed, including: medication instructions; encouragement to seek a medical evaluation; adverse drug or allergic reaction warning; and advice to abstain from sexual activity as required during treatment. Materials complying with this requirement are available on the Maryland Department of Health's EPT web page for downloading at: <http://tinyurl.com/EPTMaryland>. Other materials with comparable information may be used.

Patient Counseling: Abstinence until 7 days after patient and partner treatment.

***Gonorrhea Treatment:** The current CDC-recommended regimen for *in-office* gonorrhea treatment is dual therapy: 250 mg IM ceftriaxone in a single dose PLUS 1 gram azithromycin orally in a single dose. However, oral treatment still should be considered for EPT since not treating partners is significantly more dangerous.

Who Pays for EPT Medication: The index patient's insurance may NOT be billed for the partner's EPT medication. EPT medications must be paid for out-of-pocket by the index patient or the partner, or paid by the partners' health insurance.

Adverse Reactions: To report adverse reactions, contact the Center for STI Prevention at the Maryland Department of Health by phone: (410) 767-6900, or email: mdh.sticlinicalconsult@maryland.gov.



Additional EPT resources for Maryland pharmacists can be found at:
<http://tinyurl.com/EPTMaryland>
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